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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/682,189	NAKAZATO ET AL.	
	Examiner Susan S. Lee	Art Unit 2852	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment filed 7/11/05 & terminal disclaimer filed 11/24/04.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 43-82.
3. The drawings filed on 10/10/03 & 3/10/05 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of the:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/305,275.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 7/19/05
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other See Continuation Sheet (see below)

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) is required in order to make an examiner's amendment which places this application in condition for allowance. During a telephone conversation conducted on July 21, 2005, Michael Monaco (52,041) requested an extension of time for 2 MONTH(S) and authorized the Director to charge Deposit Account No. 15-0030 the required fee of \$450 (2 month) - \$120 (1 month paid on 7/11/05) = **\$330** for this extension and authorized the following examiner's amendment.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

As to claim 69, line 9, change "first image forming cartridge" to - - second image forming cartridge - -.

As to claim 69, line 11, change "first image" to - - second image - -.

As to claim 69, line 11, change "first photosensitive drum" to - - second photosensitive drum - -.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for allowance of claims 43-50 is the inclusion of a plurality of image forming cartridges each having a photosensitive drum. Each drum has an

exposure position facing a corresponding light generator and a transfer position substantially diametrically opposed to the exposure position. A housing, configured to house the plurality of light generators one above another, have respective slots corresponding to the light generators wherein the slots are positioned to allow light beams emitted from the light generators to pass therethrough onto the respective exposure positions. This is found in all of claims 43-50, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 51-58 is the inclusion of a plurality of image forming means having each a photosensitive drum. Each drum has an exposure position facing a corresponding light generating means and a transfer position substantially diametrically opposed to the exposure position. A housing means, configured to house the plurality of light generating means one above another, have respective slots corresponding to the light generating means wherein the slots are positioned to allow light beams emitted from the light generating means to pass therethrough onto the respective exposure positions. This is found in all of claims 51-58, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 59-63 is the inclusion of a plurality of image forming cartridges having each a photoconductive element with each element having an exposure position facing a corresponding optical writing device and a transfer position substantially diametrically opposed to the exposure position. A vertical stay is disposed between the optical writing devices and the image forming cartridges. A plurality of image forming cartridge supporting members corresponding to each of the

image forming cartridges are attached to at least one of the vertical stay and the apparatus body. A plurality of optical writing device supporting members corresponding to each of the optical writing devices are attached to at least one of the vertical stay and the apparatus body. This is found in all of claims 59-63, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 64-67 is the inclusion of an image forming cartridge having a photosensitive drum with an exposure position and a transfer position; and a second image forming cartridge having a second exposure position and a second transfer position. Each exposure position is arranged to align with a corresponding light generator through a corresponding slot in a housing, and each transfer position being substantially diametrically opposed to the corresponding exposure position. The image forming cartridge is arranged above the second image forming cartridge. This is found in all of claims 64-67, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claim 68 is the inclusion of an image forming cartridge having a means for receiving and transferring an image including an exposure position and a transfer position. The means for receiving and transferring is arranged above a second means for receiving and transferring. The second means for receiving and transferring have a second exposure position and a second transfer position. Each exposure position is arranged to align with a corresponding light generator through corresponding slot in a housing, and each transfer position being substantially

diametrically opposed to the corresponding exposure position. This is found in all of claim 68, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claim 69 is the inclusion of a method for forming an image by arranging a first image cartridge above a second image forming cartridge; arranging an exposure position of a first photosensitive drum of the first image cartridge to align with a corresponding light generator through a first slot in a housing; transferring the first image from a transfer position of the first photosensitive drum, the transfer position of the first photosensitive drum being substantially diametrically opposed to the exposure position of the first photosensitive drum. The second image is projected onto an exposure position of a second photosensitive drum in a second image forming cartridge, the exposure position arranged to align with a corresponding light generator through a second slot in the housing. The second image is transferred from a transfer position of the second photosensitive drum, the transfer position of the second photosensitive drum being substantially diametrically opposed to the exposure position of the second photosensitive drum. This is found in all of claim 69, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 70-75 is the inclusion of a plurality of photo sensitive drums, each of the photo sensitive drums configured to receive a light beam from the light generator on a respective exposure position through a corresponding slot in a housing. This is found in all of claims 70-75, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claim 76 is the inclusion of a plurality of means to align a corresponding exposure position of means for receiving and transferring with light beam through a corresponding slot in a housing. This is found in all of claim 76, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claim 77 is the inclusion of a step of transmitting an image via a light beam within a housing; receiving the image onto an exposure position of each of a plurality of photosensitive drums; and aligning a corresponding exposure position with a light beam through a corresponding slot in the housing. This is found in all of claim 77, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claims 78-80 is the inclusion of an image forming cartridge and a light generator in a housing of an image forming apparatus. The image forming cartridge having a photo sensitive drum having an exposure position and a transfer position, the image forming cartridge configured to align the exposure position with a light beam emitted by the light generator through a slot in the housing. This is found in all of claims 78-80, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claim 81 is the inclusion of means to align an exposure position of the means for receiving and transferring an image with a light beam emitted by the light generator through a slot of a housing that includes the light generator within the housing. This is found in all of claim 81, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

The primary reason for allowance of claim 82 is the inclusion of step aligning the exposure position of a photosensitive drum of an image forming cartridge with a light beam emitted by a light generator in a housing through a slot of the housing. This is found in all of claim 82, but not disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Sameshima et al., Kaneko et al., and Araki et al. were disclosed as prior art in parent applications and not listed in this application.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Susan S. Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-2137. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. - Fri., 10:30-8:00, Second Monday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Art Grimley can be reached on 571-272-2136 or 571-272-2800 (Ext. 52). The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Susan S. Lee
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2852

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